

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00 SCS-03

SCA-01 PPT-01 EB-07 COME-00 /078 W

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O 010440Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7084

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF TWO BOISE CASCADE EMPLOYEES

1. AN AP WIRE REPORT DATED MANILA SEPT 1 STATES THAT TWO AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF U.S. FIRM BOISE-CASCADE WERE KINDAPPED BY MUSLIMS ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 30. EMPLOYEES GORDON JANE AND LEROY DAVIS REPORTEDLY WERE TAKEN BY KIDNAPPERS FROM THE FIRM'S ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TIMBER CONCESSION, ALONG WITH LOCAL EMPLOYEE, AND WERE RELEASED ON PAYMENT OF 100,000 PESO RANSOM.

2. PAT JACKSON, BOISE CASCADE REP MANILA, HAS CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY THAT ESSENTIALS OF STORY ARE TRUE. JANE AND DAVIS WERE HELD BY KIDNAPPERS FOR ABOUT SIX HOURS BUT WERE RELEASED UNHARMED ON PAYMENT OF THE SPECIFIED RANSOM. JACKSON HAS NOTIFIED MILITARY AUTHORITIES OF INCIDENT AND OF SAFE RETURN OF VICTIMS.

3. JACKSON STATES THAT THE KINDAPPERS WERE IN HIS JUDGEMENT MERE BANDITS AND NOT RPT NOT MEMBERS OF ANY KNOWN MUSLIM REBEL BAND IN THE AREA. BANDITS HAVE TRIED TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THEY ARE AFFILIATED WITH REBEL LEADERSHIP, BUT JACKSON SAYS HIS FIRM IS VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF REBEL CADRES IN HIS DISTRICT AND THESE PEOPLE DID NOT BELONG.

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4. JACKSON STATES THAT THIS IS THE FOURTH INSTANCE OF HARRASSMENT BY BANDITS IN HIS FIRM'S CONCESSION AREA IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST. PRIOR TO AUGUST, THE FIRM HAD EXPERIENCED LITTLE TROUBLE. AS A RESULT OF AUGUST EXPERIENCE, AND PARTICULARLY SATURDAY'S KINDAPPING, JACKSON SAYS OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN SHUT DOWN FOR THE INDEFINITE FUTURE.

5. ON QUESTIONING BY EMBASSY JACKSON SUGGESTS THAT THE RISE IN HARRASSMENT LAST MONTH MAY BE TIED TO A DISPUTE OVER CONCESSION BOUNDARIES INVOLVING PRESIDENT MARCOS SISTER, FORTUNA BARBA. WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE EMBASSY, JACKSON FEELS THAT BATTLE HAS BEEN WON, BUT THAT COULD BE PREMATURE. IN ANY EVENT, WE ANTICIPATE THAT PAF WILL GO TOOTH AND CLAW AFTER THE KINDAPPERS IN THIS CASE, COMING AS IT DOES ON THE HEELS OF THE MUCH PUBLICIZED KINDAPPING OF THE JAPANESE FLIGHT STEWARDESS SEKI.

6. JACKSON WILL BE REPORTING DETAILS OF INCIDENT TO HIS HOME OFFICE. HE REQUESTS THAT WE REFER PRESS INQUIRIES ON CASE TO HIM OR TO HIS COMPANY. SULLIVAN

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